provincial autonomy will deeply influence the more awakened of the states people. But the idea that there can be a federation between modern democratic provinces and feudal autocracies is absurd. Lord Lothian and others seem to be realising that federation will have to wait till the Princes become good democrats, but for how many can that be possible? No one in India, in or out of the Congress, has any objection to the principle of federation; in fact, they realise its necessity, but they cannot tolerate it in the form proposed, unless there is first some clear pledge that full democracy will be established in the states. At a time when England is posing as one of the last champions of democracy in Europe, it is ironical that she should be preserving these hoary despotisms and even considering the welding of them to the new young democracy which is emerging in India.

The importance of federation is seen in such questions as factory legislation, wage machinery or prohibition, where a different standard prevailing in the states will make enforcement very difficult. There are parts of India where various states and British India are constantly impinging, and it is not easy to know where the one begins and the other ends. Before there can be any satisfactory settlement in India the problem of the Princes has to be faced. As Thompson says, "the dead hand of 1819 cannot fetter 1938 to feudal conditions."

NOTE

This dark picture of the states roay$_t$ lead some to assume that India has been saved from tyranny by British rule and, if that be removed, will relapse into it. I touch on the past in Chapter Six, and it may be worth adding a point.

There is ample evidence that in early Indian history there existed Indian states with oligarchic or republican forms of